

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/085,393	CHANG ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jennifer Doan	2874	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 08/08/2003.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15.
3. The drawings filed on 27 February 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

5. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - (a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**

7. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance <input type="checkbox"/> Other
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EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Reasons for allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fails to disclose or reasonably suggest a variable optical attenuator for attenuating optical signals transmitted from an input fiber to an output fiber comprising a refractor fixed on a rotatable mechanism for deflecting light beams from the input optical fiber to couple part of the light beams into the output fiber; wherein the rotatable mechanism is mounted on a holder coaxially fixing the input and output ports and the rotatable mechanism is rotated about an axis perpendicular to an optical axis of the input port as recited in claims 1 and 10; further wherein the refractor extends perpendicular to the axial direction, light from the input GRIN lens penetrates the refractor and fully enters the output GRIN lens when the refractor is tilted to the axial direction with an angle different from ninety degrees, attenuation occurs as recited in claim 8.

The examiner agrees with applicants' arguments on pages 6-8 in the remarks accompanying the amendment of August 8, 2003, and fully concurs that the Bergmann and Pan et al. references do not disclose or suggest the highlighted limitations above.

Claims 1-15 are therefore allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

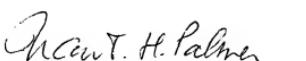
2. Any inquiry concerning the merits of this communication should be directed to Examiner Jennifer Doan whose telephone number is (703) 308-6179. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 6:00am to 3:30pm, second Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rodney Bovernick, can be reached on (703) 308-4819. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-7724.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

JD

November 7, 2003



PHAN T. H. PALMER
PRIMARY EXAMINER